

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG AU GW FR IT YO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SADAT'S EUROPEAN TRIP

REF: ALL NOTAL (A) BONN 05975, (B) PARIS 10004, (C) ROME 5930

(D) VIENNA 2960

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT SADAT'S TRIP TO EUROPE DID NOT BRING ANY
STARTLING SURPRISES. AS WE HAD EXPECTED, TRIP WAS BASICALLY ONE
INTENDED CEMENT ALREADY GOOD RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN HOSTS WITH AN
EYE TO GOOD PUBLICITY AT HOME IN EGYPT AND IN ARAB WORLD,

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ANDTO OBTAINING FURTHER ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

POLITICALLY, PRESIDENT ACHIEVED HIS OBJECTIVES, ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS MORE MODEST. END SUMMARY

2. POLITICAL. REFTELS SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT ACHIEVED OVERALL POLITICAL OBJECT OF PROMOTING RELATIONS WITH THOSE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO CAN OFFER HIM POLITICAL HELP AS WELL AS ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DEPARTING MARCH 29, HE SPEND 16 DAYS IN FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, AND AUSTRIA. PRESIDENT SADAT TAKES A SOMEWHAT PERSONAL APPROACH TO DIPLOMACY AND WE ASSUME THAT HIS SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (REF A), AND CONTINUING HIS CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GISCARD, KREISKY, TITO AND THE ITALIANS REPRESENTED SATISFYING ACHIEVEMENT IN HIS EYES.

3. READING THROUGH HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT SADAT CHOSE AS UNIFYING THEME HIS DETERMINATION PROTECT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE AGAINST THOSE (I.E., SYRIANS) WHO WOULD USURP THEM. CALL ON POPE WAS FOR THIS PURPOSE. THIS IS SAME LINE HE USED DURING VISIT TO US, WHEN HIS REMARKS ON PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS WERE CAREFULLY TAILORED FOR ARAB WORKD AS WELL AS US CONSUMPTION. PRESIDENT SEEMED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT, AGAIN FOR ARAB AUDIENCE TO PROTRAY HIMSELF AS "THE" ARAB LEADER. IN VIENNA, FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID HE IS RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR EGYPT BUT FOR ENTIRE ARAB WORLD. IN THIS VIEN, HE RESTRAINED HIS RETORIC ON WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE SYRIA'S SELF-CENTERED ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON AND PLAYED MORE ON THEME THAT LEBANESE MUST HELP THEMSELVES. HE WAS WILLING, HOWEVER, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AS THE ARAB LEADER HE WAS SEEKING EVERY AVENUE POSSIBLE TO END CARNAGE; HENCE, HIS PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FRANCE WOULD SEND SPECIAL EMISSARY TO MEDIATE.

4. AS OCCURRED WHEN GISCARD VISITED EGYPT, LOCAL PRESS WAS ENCOURAGED PUBLISH INFLATED REPORTS OF FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES, WHICH HAS BECOME IMPORTANT EVEN IF NOT ENTIRELY TRUE DEVICE BY WHICH SADAT "DEMONSTRATES" TO ARMED FORCES THAT HE IS "FILLING" SOVIET ARMS GAP. BOTH SADAT'S AND GAMASY'S VISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA WERE MILKED IN THE SAME WAY BY THE EGYPTIAN MEDIA.

5. ECONOMIC. EARLY INDICATION SEEMED TO REFLECT UNREALISTIC
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GOE EXPECTATIONS IN ECONOMIC FIELD, E.G., REPORTED HOPE TO OBTAIN DM 1,000 MILLION FROM FRG (CAIRO 2849). RESULTS HAVE BEEN MODEST, HOWEVER, AND SADAT, EVIDENTLY RECOGNIZING REALITIES OF SITUATION, HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OFFERS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FORTHCOMING.

6. ROUNDUP OF LOANS AND EXPORT CREDITS ELICITED IS AS FOLLOWS, BASED PRIMARILY ON EMBASSY REPORTING FROM EACH CAPITAL VISITED:

FRANCE -- UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT NOT LIKELY TO BE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY ; FRG-DM 230 MILLION IN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FUNDS (DM 100 MILLION CAPITAL ASSISTANCE LOAN, DM 130 MILLION SPECIAL CREDIT) PLUS DM 300 MILLION EXPORT GUARANTEE, ITALY-- LIRA EQUIVALENT OF \$40 MILLION COMMERCIAL CREDITS; AUSTRIA --UP TO \$240 MILLION EXPORT CREDITS UNDER JOINT VENTURE BEING NEGOTIATED BY TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE NO AUTHORITATIVE WORD OF ASSISTANCE FROM YUGOSLAVIA, BUT LOCAL PRESS NOTES TRADE WILL BE INCREASED AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS INITIATED.

7. TOTAL INCREMENTS TO AID ARE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE DUE TO STATE OF PLAY IN NEGOTIATION IN SOME INSTANCES AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO AVAILABILITY IN OTHERS. EXAMPLE OF LATTER IS DM 130 MILLION IN SPECIAL CREDITS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND FROM EFRG EMBASSY HERE HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, OF COURSE, WHAT WILL RESULT FROM DISCUSSIONS AND WITH AUSTRIA ON EXPORT CREDITS.

8. ADDITIONAL PROSPECTIVE BENEFIT FROM SADAT TOUR IS INCREASED TRADE AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT. WE UNDERSTAND FROM LOCAL CONTACTS THAT ANUMBER OF TRANSCATION ARE EXPECTED TO BE ARRANGED. PRESUMABLY, GOE PARTY WAS AS ACTIVE IN PROMOTING INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE ELSEWHERE AS IN ITALY (ROME 6090). MINOR IRRITANTS IN BILATERIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SUCH AS DEBT ARREARS, REPORTEDLY WERE DISCUSSED AND ACCORDS ON CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION CONCLUDED. LATTER APPARENTLY DO NOT ENCOMPASS NUCLEAR POWER QUESTIONS, HOWEVER.

9. COMMENT: WHAT EVER CONCRETE RESULTS OF PRESIDENT'S TRIP MAY TURN OUT TO BE, AND WE ESPECT THEY WILL BE LIMITED, LOCAL PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE. MOST EGYPTIANS LIKE

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TO SEE THEIR PRESIDENT ON TV, MEETING WESTERN LEADERS AND ARTICULATING ARAB AND EGYPTIAN ASPIRATIONS COMPETENTLY. PRESIDENT WAS WELCOMED BY THOUSANDS OF CHEERING EGYPTIANS, WHO LINED ROAD FROM AIRPORT TO HIS GIZA HOME. WHILE MANY WERE CERTAINLY TRUCKED IN FOR OCCASSION , AS IS EGYPTIAN PRACTICE, THE WARMTH OF THEIR RECEPTION FOR THEIR PRESIDENT WAS UNMISTAKEABLE. PRESIDENT TOLD VISITING CODEL HE HAD FORGOTTEN TO SEND WORD TO CAIRO NOT TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC WELCOMING RECEPTION. ON ARRIVAL HERE, HOWEVER, HE WAS GLAD THAT HE HAD FAILED TO DO SO. THE ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC WELCOME WHICH WAS ACCORDED HIM SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TO ALL (READ SOVIETS, SYRIANS, LIBYANS, AND OTHERS) THAT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE ARE FIRMLY BEHIND HIM AND HIS POLICIES.

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